SUKEDACHI NINE
助太刀09

SLASH
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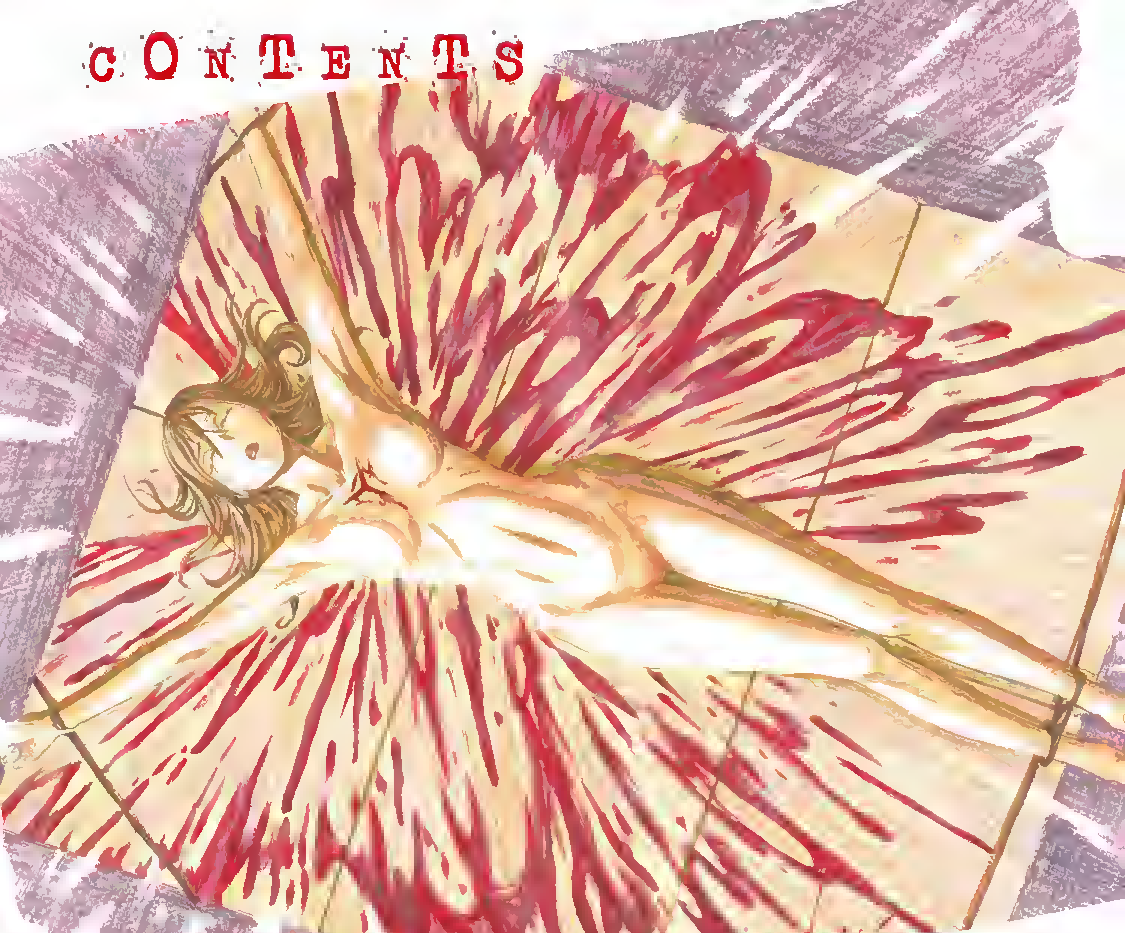
CONTENTS



mirror:13 TWO SIDES OF YOURSELF (2)——007

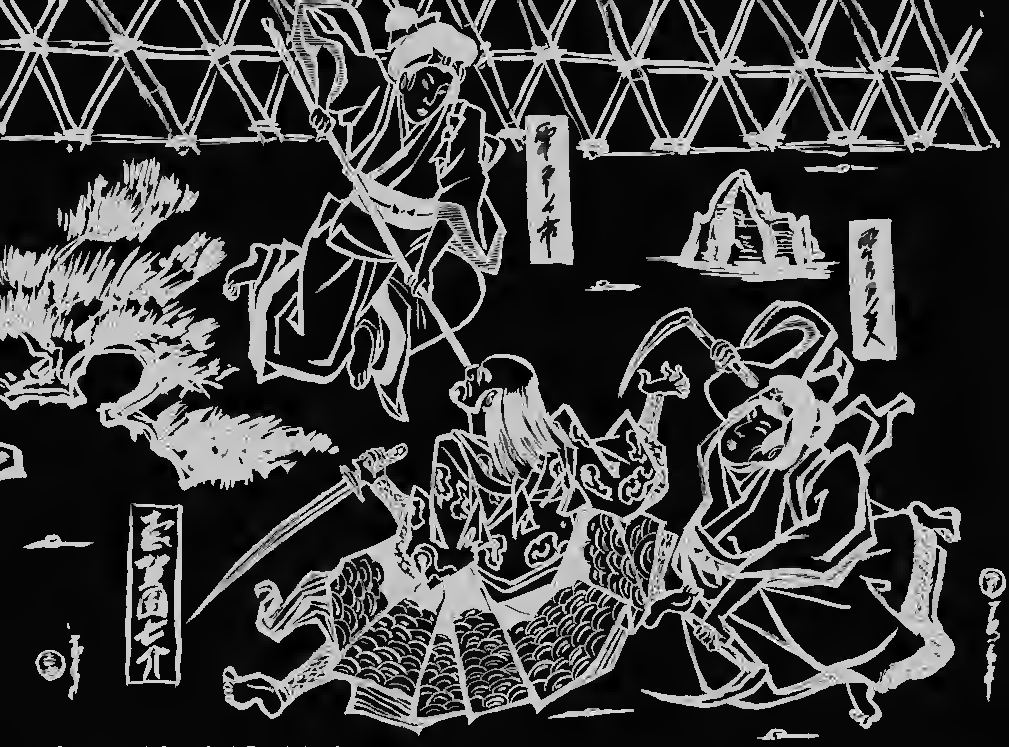
mirror:14 YUUJI (1)——055

mirror:15 TWO SIDES OF YOURSELF (3)-097

mirror:16 JUSTICE AND EVIL——137

mirror:17 A CUT FINGER——175

mirror:2.5 ASSISTOR——213



PENAL CODE ARTICLE 11.2
"DEATH BY RETALIATION"

1) The death row inmate shall, during the duel, be executed in the same manner in which their victim was killed.

2) After strict review, the victim's family's request for execution will be carried out by an Enforcer of the Special Administrative Police.

3) If the inmate fells the Enforcer during the duel, their execution by retaliation expires, and they are given three years' amnesty and the right to be euthanized.

KOUTA KIYODERA (AGE 21)

ASSISTOR NO. 9

HE IS BLESSED WITH A FIT PHYSIQUE, TOP-NOTCH EYESIGHT AND REFLEXES. HIS ABILITIES ARE SAID TO BE ON PAR WITH THE BEST ATHLETES. HOWEVER, HIS SIMPLISTIC PERSONALITY PREVENTS FULL UTILIZATION OF THOSE TALENTS. HE CAN BE MORE EMPATHIC TO VICTIMS THAN YUUJI AT TIMES, THANKS TO HIS SELF-HONESTY AND HIS RECEPTIVENESS TO OTHERS.

KOUTA KIYODERA

RYOKO KOIZUMI (AGE 23)

ASSISTOR NO. 8

THE LONE SURVIVOR OF THE AA INCIDENT, IN WHICH THE INSTIGATOR MURDERED SCORES OF HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IN SEARCH OF AN ANGEL WHO COULD PURIFY HIS TAINTED SOUL. DUE TO THAT EXPERIENCE, SHE'S COME TO HARBOR A DEEP RESENTMENT TOWARDS MEN. SHE CAN FREELY DISLOCATE HER JOINTS AND CONTORT HER BODY AS NEEDED.

RYOKO KOIZUMI

YUUJI YAMAGISHI (AGE 24)

ASSISTOR NO. 7

A YOUNG ASSISTOR WHO HARBORS A DEEP HATRED TOWARDS CRIME AND A DEEP SYMPATHY TOWARDS VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES. DESPITE LEADING AN EASYGOING EXISTENCE, HE IS A WORRYWART WITH A TENDENCY TO COMPARE EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF A CERTAIN INCIDENT IN HIS YOUTH. HE LOST HIS FATHER AND BROTHER. BOTH HIS ARMS AND HIS LEGS, AND ANY SENSATION OF PAIN IN HIS NEW LIMBS.

YUUJI YAMAGISHI

NOBORU HINOMURA (AGE 30)

ASSISTOR NO. 5

THE KIND AND PURE-HEARTED ASSISTOR WITH UNRIVALED PHYSICAL STRENGTH. HE IS ALWAYS WITH HIS TWO DOLLS.

NOBORU HINOMURA

YOSHIHIKO HAGIWARA (AGE 31)

ASSISTOR NO. 3

HE WAS ONCE A DOCTOR REVERED AS THE "GOD OF SURGERY." BUT HE LOST THAT POSITION WHEN HE BECAME A MURDER SUSPECT AFTER PERFORMING AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT. HE'S SINCE BECOME AN ASSISTOR, CLAIMING THAT THE SIDE OF HIM EVERYONE SAW UNTIL THEN HAS DISAPPEARED.

YOSHIHIKO HAGIWARA

KOMATSU HORIBE (AGE ?)

ASSISTOR NO. 1

THE ELDERLY ASSISTOR WHO IS MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD. WHILE HIS ABILITIES AND EXPERIENCE ARE A MYSTERY, NO ONE DOUBTS HE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN.

KOMATSU HORIBE

JOURNALIST

HARUKA YANASE

NAME	HARUKA YANASE (AGE 24)

A COLLEGE FRIEND OF YUUJI, WHO FREQUENTLY MEETS WITH HIM IN PRIVATE FOR BETTER OR WORSE. SHE HARBORS DOUBTS ABOUT THE DEATH BY RETALIATION LAW AND ITS EXECUTION SYSTEM, AND CENTERS HER INTERVIEWS AROUND THOSE TOPICS. A CHEERFUL WOMAN FROM THE KANSAI REGION.

KAZUNARI SAKURADA
ASSISTOR NO. 2 (AGE 44)

AN ASSISTOR WHO SERVES AS A SECOND-IN-COMMAND TO THE TEAM, AND SOMEONE WHO "GETS" YUUJI. HE'S GENTLE AND LOW-KEY, BUT APPROACHES HIS ASSISTOR DUTIES WITH CONVICTION, RISKING HIS LIFE TO SEE THINGS THROUGH.

KAZUNARI SAKURADA

KYOUGEN CHIKAMATSU
ASSISTOR NO. 4 (AGE ??)

A MASKED MYSTERY POSING AS A MAN IN CONSTANT SLUMBER. YUUJI BLUSHED AFTER MOMENTARILY SEEING HIS REAL FACE, LEADING MANY TO BELIEVE HE MAY BE A STUNNING BEAUTY IN TRUTH.

KYOUGEN CHIKAMATSU

KAMUI ODA (AGE 50)
ASSISTOR NO. 5

THE LEADER WHO FOUNDED THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE "ASSISTORS" AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEATH BY RETALIATION ACT. HE HAS A PAST AS A MERCENARY, ALTHOUGH DETAILS REMAIN SPARSE. NO ONE KNOWS WHETHER THE SCARS THAT COVER HIS BODY ARE FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS HE FOUGHT IN, OR FROM BEFORE OR AFTER THAT ERA... HE IS A MAN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

KAMUI ODA

KENJI OKUMURA (AGE 45)

TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT. DESPITE STANDING IN THE UPPER ECHELON OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, HE CHOSE TO JOIN FORCES WITH AN OUTLIER LIKE ODA TO ESTABLISH THE DEATH BY RETALIATION ACT. HE BELIEVES THE ACT WILL DETER CRIME AND HELP REVERSE POPULATION DECLINE.

KENJI OKUMURA

YUKI NAKATANI
ASSISTOR NO. 6 (AGE 25)

A BLIND ASSISTOR WITH A VERY INNOCENT, GIRLISH PERSONALITY. SHE CAN GRASP SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH SOUND WAVES AROUND HER, AND RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS FROM THEIR UNIQUE SCENT. AFTER HER PARENTS' BRUTAL MURDER, THE COLOR RED WOULD TRIGGER DEEP-SEATED TRAUMAS WITHIN HER, BUT THAT HAS SINCE BEEN EXORCISED WITH KOUTA'S HELP

YUKI NAKATANI

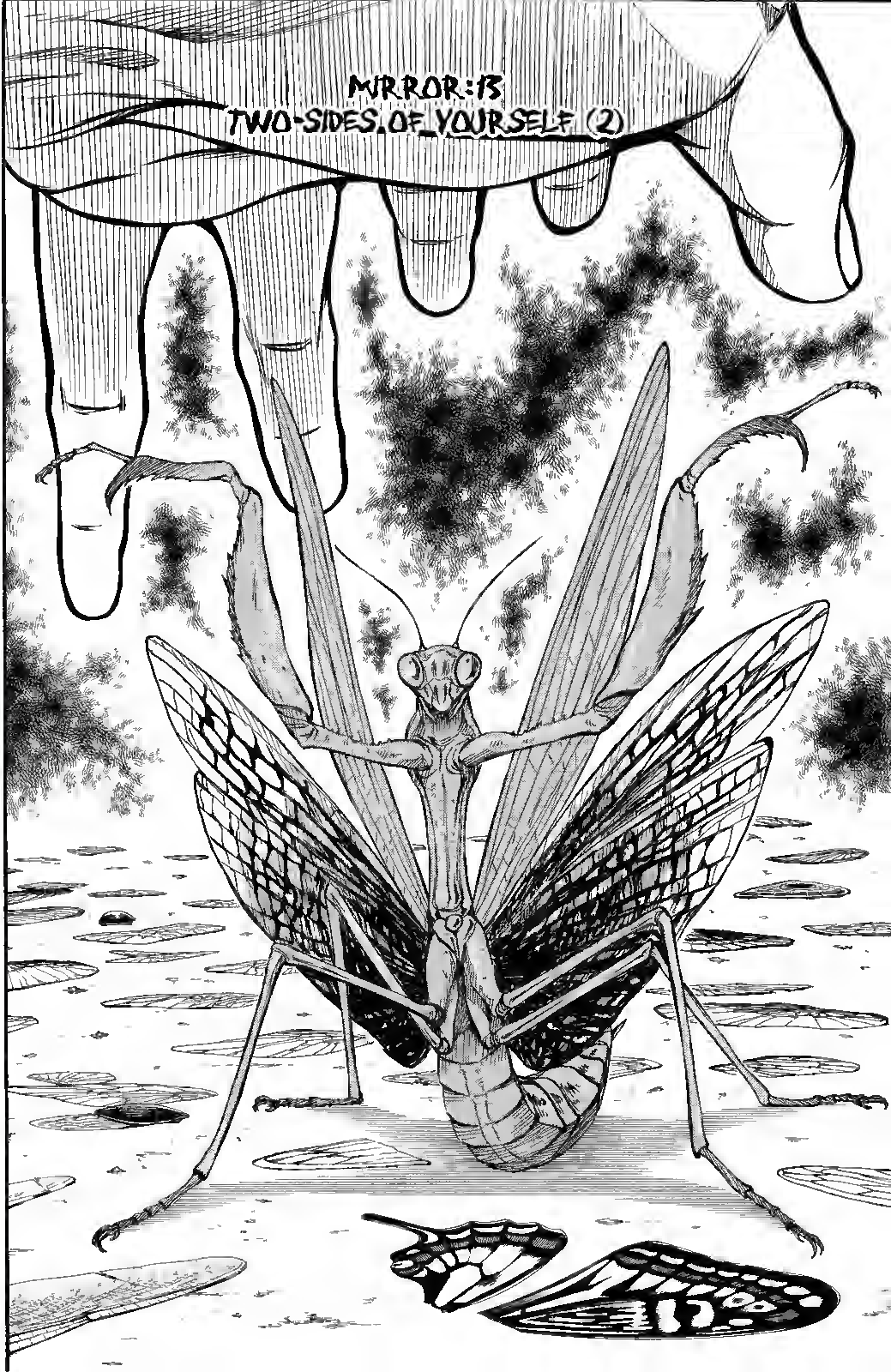
THE IDENTITY OF THE PSYCHO-KILLER HAS FINALLY BEEN REVEALED. THE FAMILY OF HIS VICTIMS HAD CHOSEN THEIR PROXY TO BE HAGIWARA -- WHO'S ONLY PIGGYBACKING ON THEIR DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE FOR HIS OWN SAKE -- OVER YUUJI AND HIS DESIRE TO HELP THEM. THEY'RE RIDING ON THE BELIEF THAT HAGIWARA CAN DELIVER WHAT HE CALLS A "TRUE RETALIATION"...

"DEATH BY RETALIATION" SEEKS TO PUNISH VIOLENT CRIMINALS BY EXECUTING THEM IN THE EXACT MANNER IN WHICH THEY MURDERED THEIR VICTIMS; AS IT IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS METHOD OF EXECUTION, A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS WAS CREATED TO CARRY THESE OUT AS PROXIES FOR THE DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES. THEY ARE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE - THE "ASSISTORS."

JAPAN'S POPULATION DECLINE CONTINUES INTO THE NEAR FUTURE, THANKS TO FALLING BIRTH RATES AND THE AGING OF THE GENERATION'S FACE. AMID THIS, THE GOVERNMENT GRAPPLES WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF A STEADY INCREASE OF VIOLENT CRIME. TO COMBAT THIS, THEY REVIVE THE "DEATH BY RETALIATION" SYSTEM, WHICH HAD EXISTED UP TO THE MEIJI ERA. IT IS DESIGNED TO EXORCISE FEELINGS OF HATRED AND VENGEANCE FROM VICTIMS OF CRIME AND THEIR FAMILIES.

SUKEDACHI NINE
助太刀09

THE GOD OF SURGERY A FALSE SURGERY, DONE FOR GLORY HOMICIDE?
PARENTS OF THE MALE DONOR STAB THE GOD OF SURGERY!
FORCED INTO DONORSHIP?
...WHEN HE WAS MENTIONING THAT ONE INCIDENT?
SO THIS IS WHAT HAGIWARA-SAN WAS TALKING ABOUT...
IN OTHER WORDS... WE'RE ALWAYS BARGAINING WITH THAT SIDE OF OURSELVES.
EVERY HUMAN ON THIS PLANET HAS TWO SIDES TO THEM-SELVES.
BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE TOO. THE SIDE OF YOU UNDER THE SURFACE...
TO SEE HAGIWARA-SAN'S FORMER PATIENTS.
AND, UHH... WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I NEED TO KNOW WHO THIS "OTHER HAGIWARA-SAN" IS...
...I NEED TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF.
AND THANKS TO A CERTAIN INCIDENT, THAT GUY'S NOW GONE.
I TRIED BARGAIN-ING WITH THE GUY UNDER MY SURFACE.


MIRROR:13
TWO-SIDES_OF_YOURSELF (2)

WHICH NEWS AGENCY ARE YOU GUYS FROM?!
PLANNING ON WRITING ANOTHER SMEAR PIECE ON DR. HAGIWARA?
DIGGING UP YEARS-OLD NEWS FROM THE BLOODY GRAVE...
...IS ALL BECAUSE OF THE GOOD DOCTOR!
GET THIS! THE ONLY REASON WHY I CAN EVEN STAND HERE AND GRIPE IN YOUR FACE...
YOU AIN'T FOOLING ME, YOUNG MAN.
ERR, NO... WE'RE ASSOCIATES OF HAGIWARA-SAN, AND WE WANT TO ASK THOSE IN THE KNOW ABOUT HIS PAST...

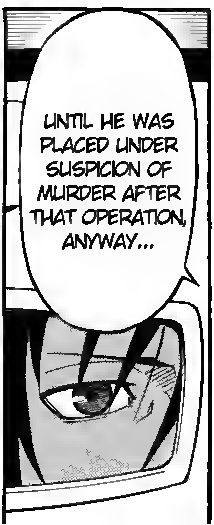
ALL THE OTHER DOCTORS WERE TOO SCARED TO TAKE MY CASE.
THAT MAKES DR. HAGIWARA MY ONE AND ONLY SAVIOR.
HE MAY SEEM DANGEROUS, WITH THAT FACE AND HIS LOVE OF CUTTING THINGS UP...
...BUT HE'S STILL A DOCTOR AMONG DOCTORS.

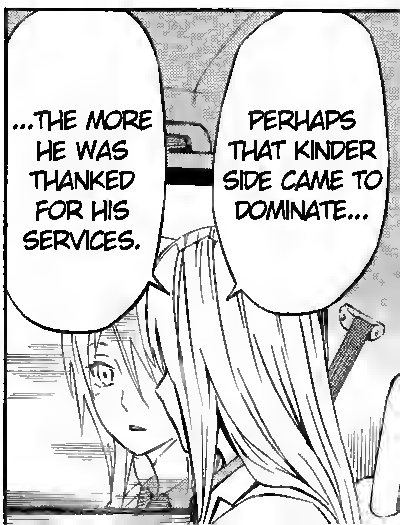
SAFETY FIRST
安
全
第
一
...HE EVENTUALLY CAME TO HOLD THE KNIFE SO HE COULD SEE HIS PATIENTS SMILE AGAIN...
...HAGIWARA-SAN BECAME A DOCTOR BECAUSE HE LOVED CUTTING THINGS, BUT...
MAYBE...

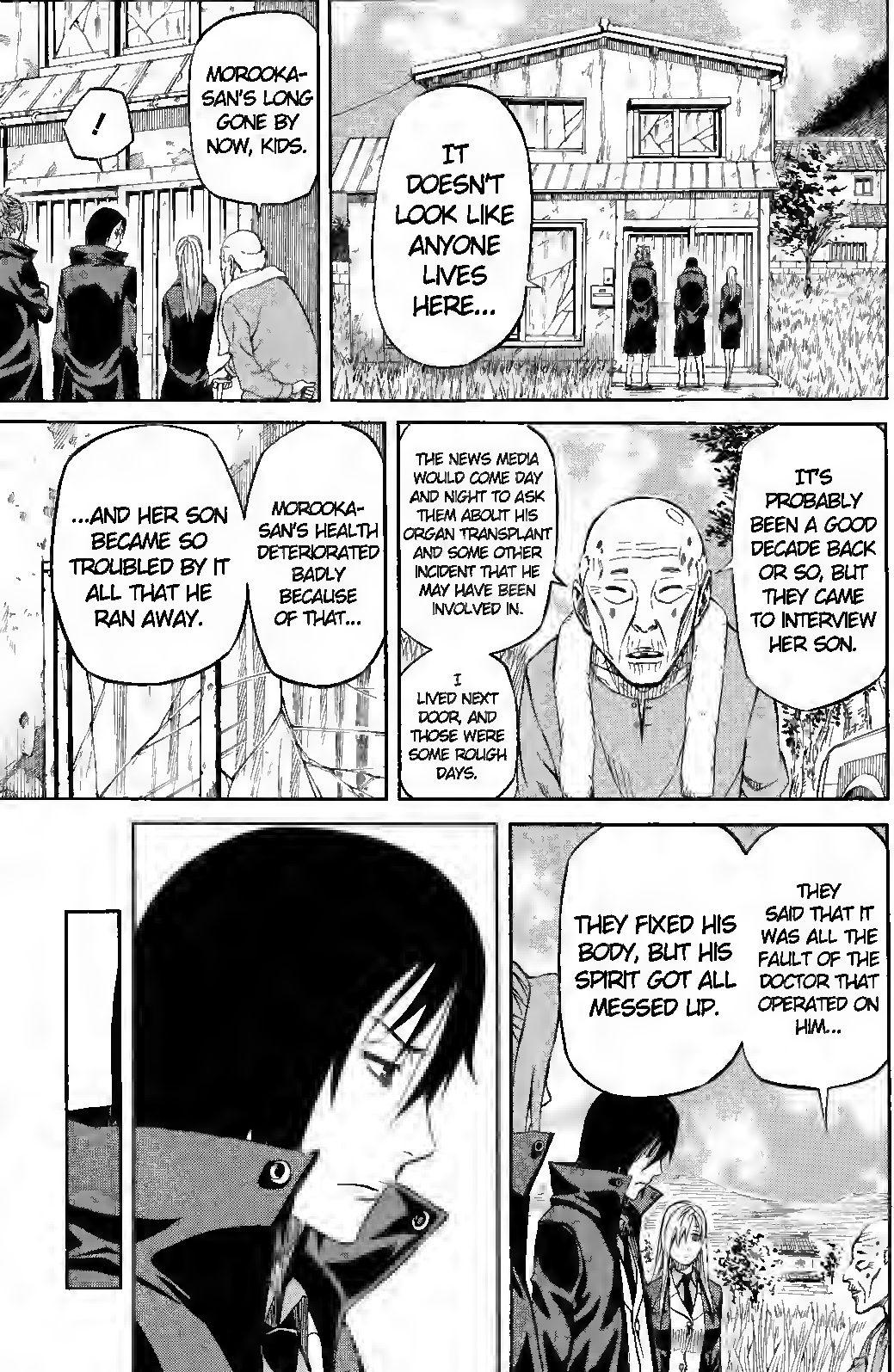
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HAGIWARA-SAN WAS REFERRING TO...
THE KNIFE EXISTS FOR HIS PATIENTS AND NOT FOR HIM.

...REGARDING THE OTHER SIDE OF HIM THAT DISAP-PEARED.

S-SENPAI... I GOTTA PEE AFTER WE PARK...!
THE NEXT STOP IS OUR LAST, GUYS.

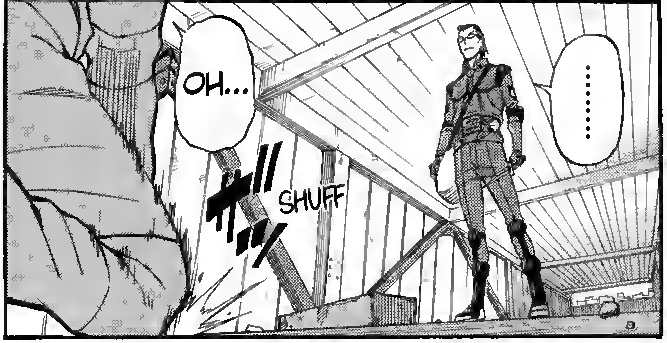

UNTIL HE WAS PLACED UNDER SUSPICION OF MURDER AFTER THAT OPERATION, ANYWAY...

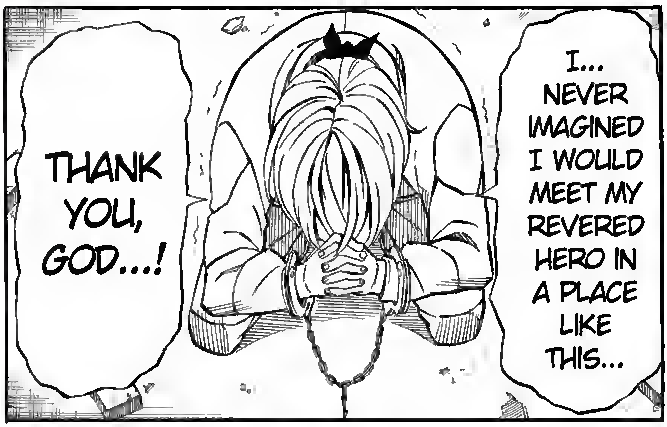

...THE MORE HE WAS THANKED FOR HIS SERVICES.
PERHAPS THAT KINDER SIDE CAME TO DOMINATE...


!
MOROOKA-SAN'S LONG GONE BY NOW, KIDS.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE LIVES HERE...
...AND HER SON BECAME SO TROUBLED BY IT ALL THAT HE RAN AWAY.
MOROOKA-SAN'S HEALTH DETERIORATED BADLY BECAUSE OF THAT...
THE NEWS MEDIA WOULD COME DAY AND NIGHT TO ASK THEM ABOUT HIS ORGAN TRANSPLANT AND SOME OTHER INCIDENT THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN.
I LIVED NEXT DOOR, AND THOSE WERE SOME ROUGH DAYS.
IT'S PROBABLY BEEN A GOOD DECADE BACK OR SO, BUT THEY CAME TO INTERVIEW HER SON.
...
THEY FIXED HIS BODY, BUT HIS SPIRIT GOT ALL MESSED UP.
THEY SAID THAT IT WAS ALL THE FAULT OF THE DOCTOR THAT OPERATED ON HIM...

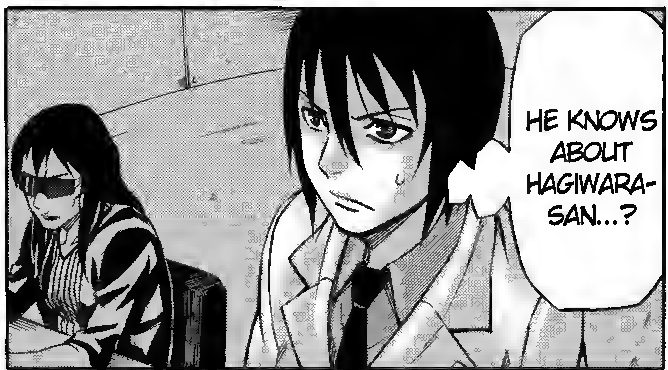
IF THINGS BECOME TOO MUCH FOR YOU, THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO--
THE ASSISTOR WILL HAVE TO SWAP OUT THE INMATE'S ORGANS FOR THIS RETALIATION.
NO.
I... WILL NOT LOOK AWAY.
KCHAK
PLEASE DELIVER UNTO HIM TRUE RETRIBUTION!
VWOON
CARRY OUT RYOU HABAKURA'S RETALIATION.
THE WITNESS IS IN PLACE.
IF ONLY HAGIWARA-SAN CAN PULL THAT OFF...
...THEN SHOW ME WHAT HE'S GOT.

ROGER THAT.
I CARRY OUT MY WILL IN PLACE OF THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES...
I WILL OPERATE ON YOU.
SHFF
!


OH...
SHUFF


I... NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD MEET MY REVERED HERO IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
THANK YOU, GOD...!

I'M NOT SUCH A STAND-UP GUY...
...TO BE WOR-SHIPPED LIKE THAT.

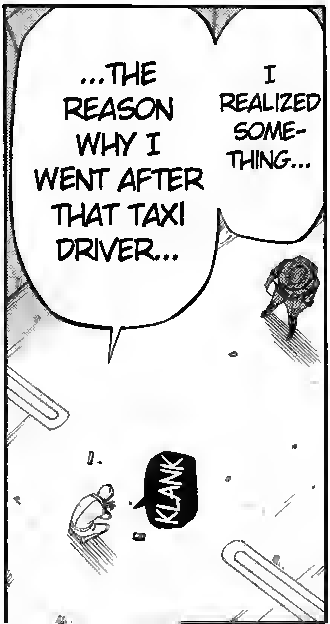

HE KNOWS ABOUT HAGIWARA-SAN...?

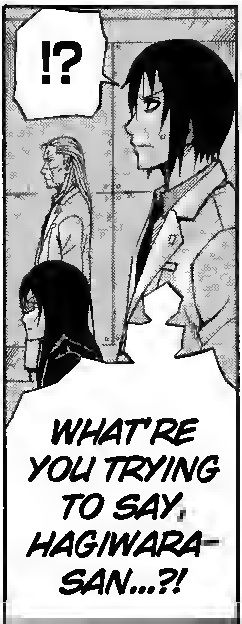
THE GOD OF SURGERY... STANDS BEFORE ME...

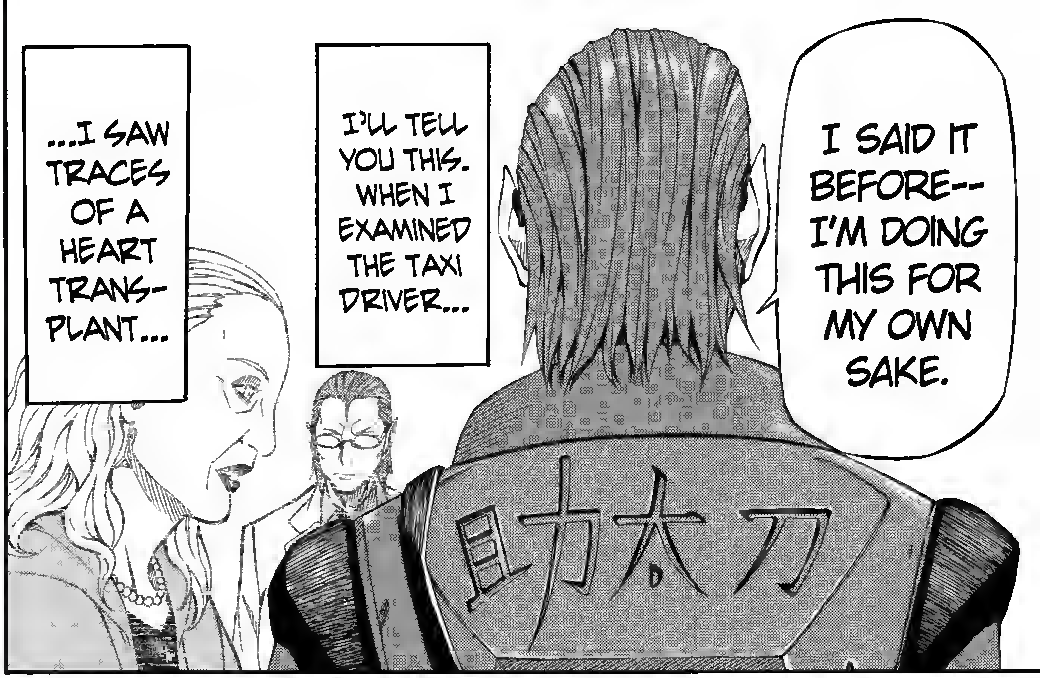
I WORSHIPPED YOU, AND I ENVIED YOU...
YOU LEAVE BEHIND SUCH BEAUTIFUL SURGICAL SCARS...
BUT... YOUR TECHNIQUE IS...

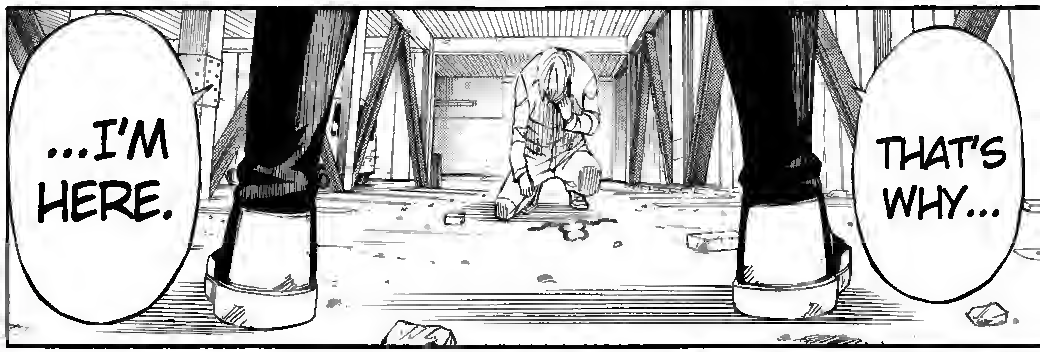
SO NO AUTO-GRAPHS FOR YOU.
SCHLIP
THANKS FOR THE PRAISE, BUT...
...YOU JUST HAD TO MAKE A MESS OF MY PERFECT SURGICAL SCARS, SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU WERE TRYING TO IMITATE MY TECHNIQUE.

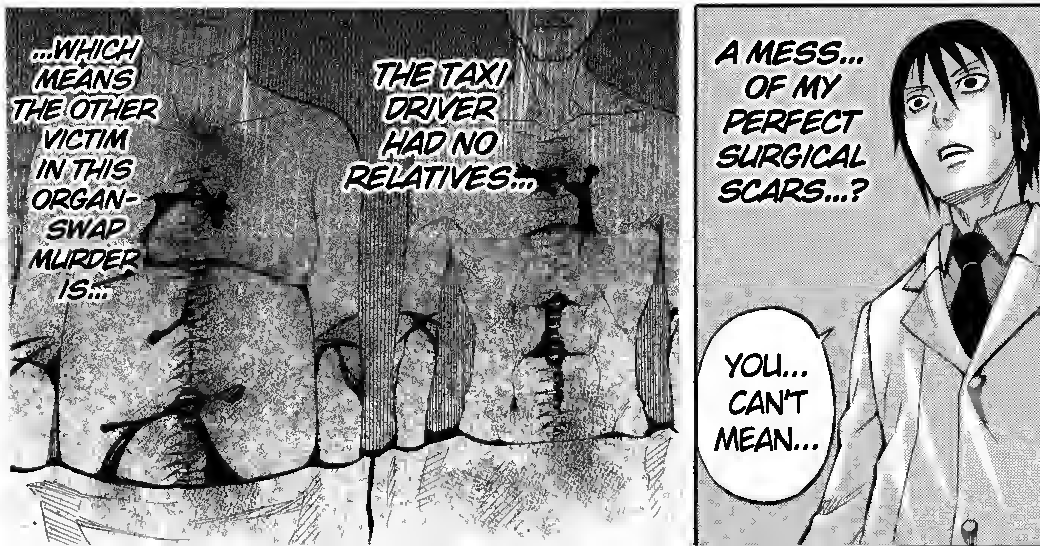
DIDN'T HE KILL HIM FOR THE TAXI? SO HE COULD MAKE A GETAWAY?
THE TAXI DRIVER? THE OTHER VICTIM IN THE MUR-DERS...
TAXI


...THE REASON WHY I WENT AFTER THAT TAXI DRIVER...
I REALIZED SOME-THING...
KLANK

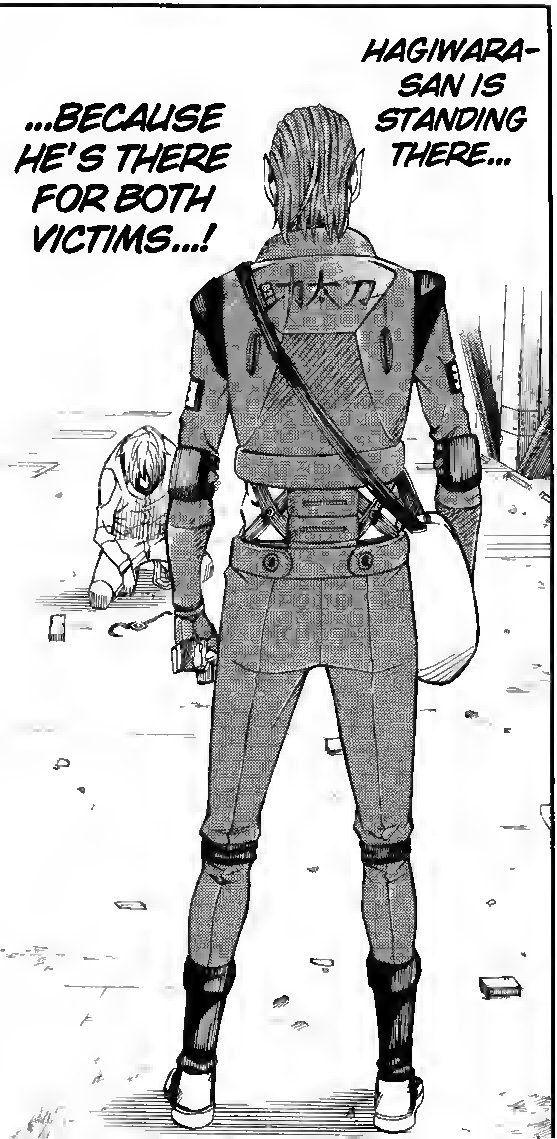

!?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY, HAGIWARA-SAN...?!


I SAID IT BEFORE-- I'M DOING THIS FOR MY OWN SAKE.
I'LL TELL YOU THIS. WHEN I EXAMINED THE TAXI DRIVER...
...I SAW TRACES OF A HEART TRANS-PLANT...

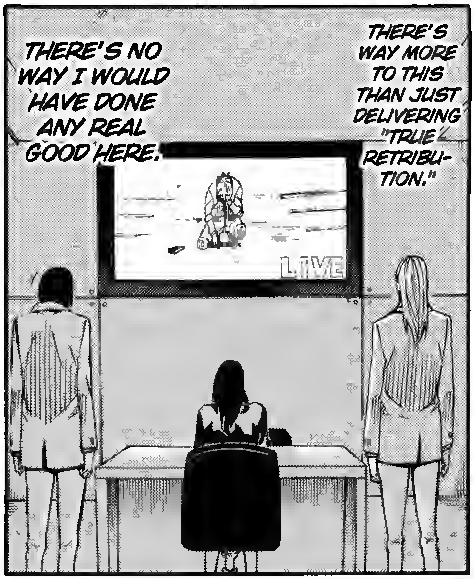

THAT'S WHY...
...I'M HERE.

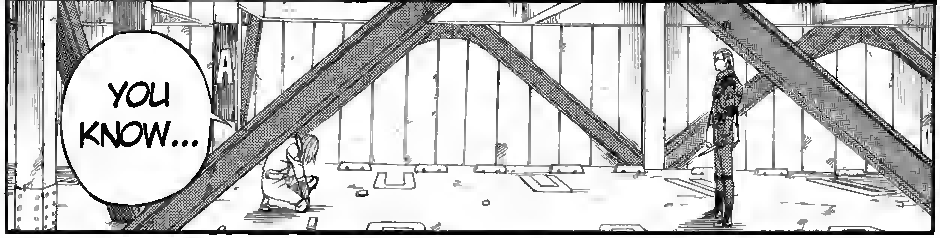

A MESS... OF MY PERFECT SURGICAL SCARS...?
YOU... CAN'T MEAN...
THE TAXI DRIVER HAD NO RELATIVES...
...WHICH MEANS THE OTHER VICTIM IN THIS ORGAN-SWAP MURDER IS...

...PERFORMED THE HEART TRANSPLANT ON?!
...THE PATIENT WHO HAGIWARA-SAN...


...BECAUSE HE'S THERE FOR BOTH VICTIMS...!
HAGIWARA-SAN IS STANDING THERE...

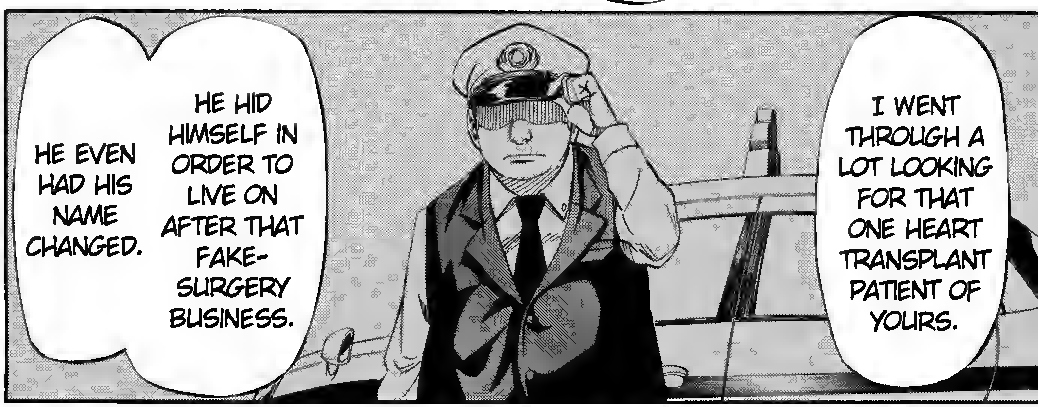
I SEE IT NOW...
OH MY GOD...


THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD HAVE DONE ANY REAL GOOD HERE.
THERE'S WAY MORE TO THIS THAN JUST DELIVERING "TRUE RETRIBUTION."
LIVE

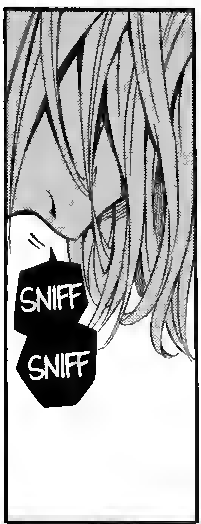

YOU KNOW...

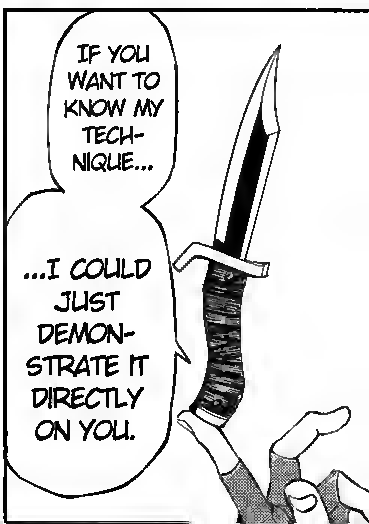
...THAT I COULD DO THE SAME THING TOO.
IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED TO PROVE...

I'VE BEEN A HUGE FAN OF YOURS SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
I WANTED TO SEE THE SKILLS OF THE GOD OF SURGERY IN ACTION.


HE EVEN HAD HIS NAME CHANGED.
HE HID HIMSELF IN ORDER TO LIVE ON AFTER THAT FAKE-SURGERY BUSINESS.
I WENT THROUGH A LOT LOOKING FOR THAT ONE HEART TRANSPLANT PATIENT OF YOURS.

...THOSE ARE PIG PARTS IN THAT BAG.
SNIFF


SNIFF
SNIFF


IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MY TECH-NIQUE...
...I COULD JUST DEMON-STRATE IT DIRECTLY ON YOU.

CUTS OF PORK IN PARTICULAR SMELL JUST LIKE HUMAN FLESH!
I'VE SLICED UP SO MANY THINGS IN MY LIFE, SO I KNOW THE SMELL OF FRESHLY-BUTCHERED MEAT!

BUT I OBVIOUSLY CAN'T USE ANOTHER HUMAN'S ORGANS FOR THE JOB.
I HAVE TO KILL YOU AND SWAP OUT YOUR ORGANS, THE SAME WAY YOU MURDERED THOSE TWO MEN.

BUT I CAN'T STEP OUTSIDE EVER AGAIN--
AH.

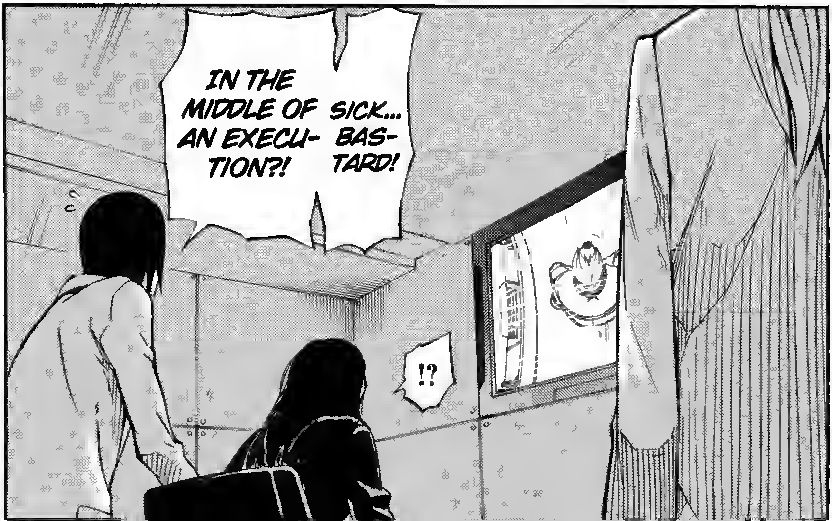
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT BEFORE?! DAMMIT, WHAT A LOST OPPORTU-NITY...!
AHH! I NEVER THOUGHT TO DO THAT!

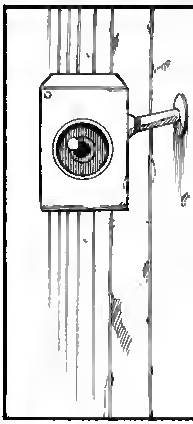
...LIVE-STOCK... MAN... AND...

...I STILL HAVE A CHANCE.
--OOOM
SHALL WE START WITH YOUR LIMBS?
IF I USE YOU...
I GET IT.
THROW
GRIP

SKITTER
SKITTER
YOU'RE FASTER THAN I THOUGHT.
SHRAK
IFFF FOOW GULID!
HAMF
HMMF
HMMF
FONDLE
FONDLE
MAN AND LIVESTOCK, MAN AND LIVESTOCK, THE INCISION IS EXACT...
YESS-SS...
YANK
SLIP
2A

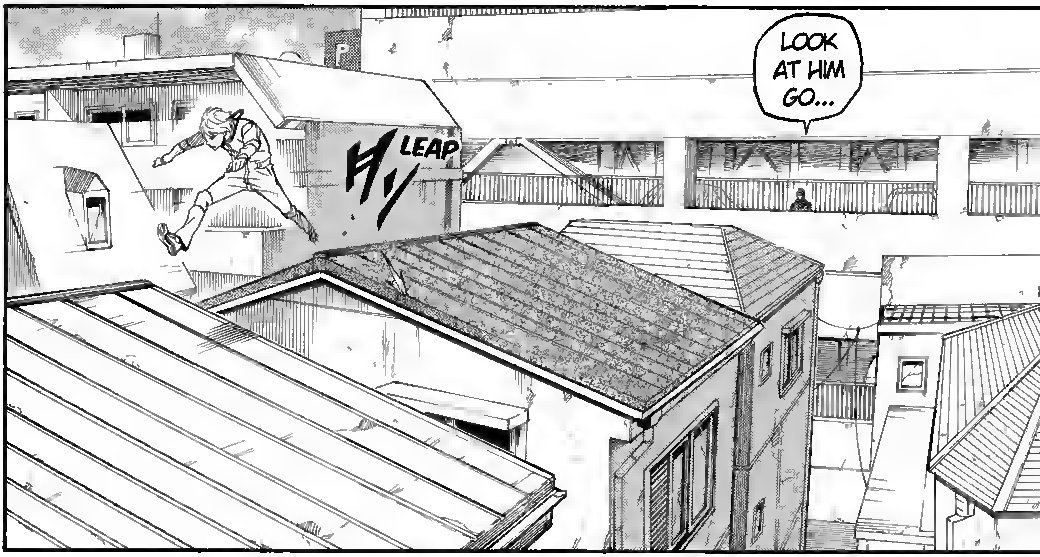
HMMMF
HMMMF
HMMMF
HMMMF
HMMMF
HMMMF


IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXECUTION?!
SICK... BASTARD!
!?



I THOUGHT HE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
KLAT
KLAT
AH HAH... MASTUR-BATING, IS HE?
...SO EVERY TIME YOU EAT OR TOUCH YOURSELF, YOUR BODY REMEMBERS THE THRILL OF MURDER.
YOU LINK THOSE MOMENTS OF ELATION TO MOMENTS WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY OR HORNY...
IT'S ONE WAY TO RECALL ASSOCIA-TIVE MEMORY.
YOU SEE THIS A LOT WITH PSYCHO KILLERS.
WHAT ?!
BZRRT
THIS IS WHAT A PSYCHO-KILLER'S ABOUT? I'M USUALLY GOOD AT GETTING A READ ON OTHERS, BUT I CAN'T EVEN TELL WITH THIS GUY...
I NEED TO FIND A KNIFE...
A KNIFE...
HUFF...

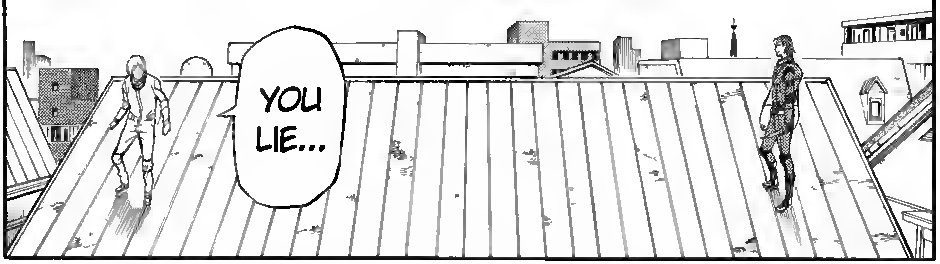
LEAP
GA-CHANK
進入禁止
DO NOT ENTER
!

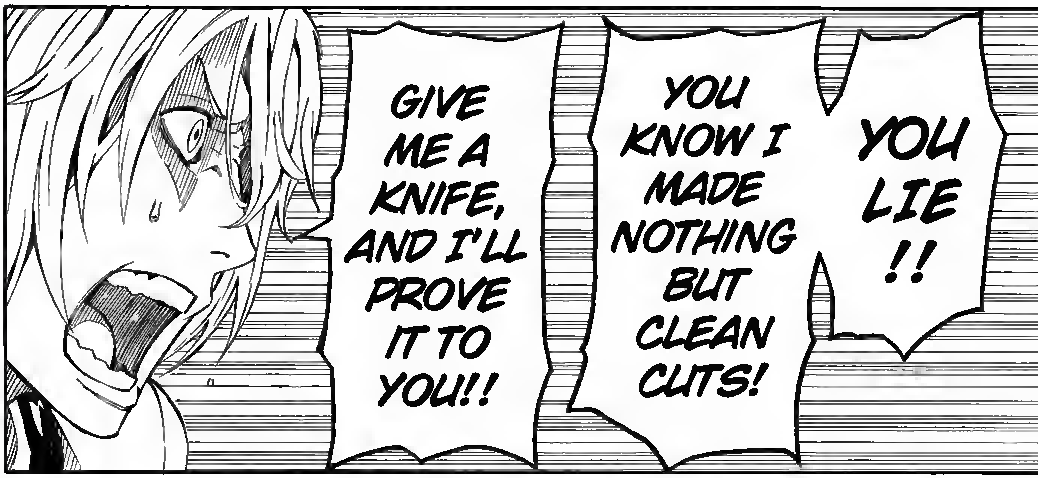

LOOK AT HIM GO...
LEAP

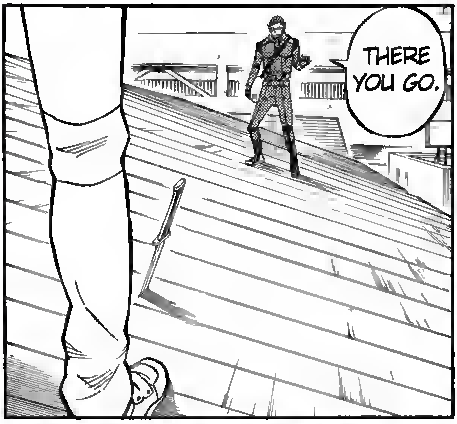
HOLD YOUR HORSES, PEOPLE.
TAP

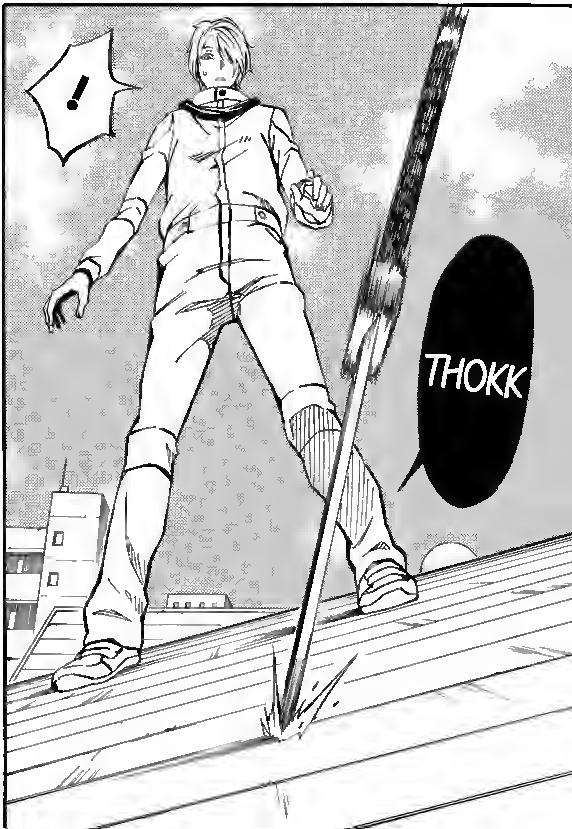
PLEASE, STOP HIM!
IF HE FALLS OFF AND KILLS HIMSELF, THE RETALIA-TION'S A FAILURE !!
THIS ISN'T GOOD, HAGI-WARA-SAN!
HE'S ESCAPING ALONG THE ROOF-TOPS!

TWITCH
YOUR SURGICAL SCARS WERE A FREAKIN' MESS!
YOUR ORGAN SWAP SURGERY'S A SLOP JOB, Y'KNOW !!
HE... STOPPED...
...THEN YOU AIN'T GOT SQUAT FOR TALENT!!
IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU COULD DO AFTER CUTTING UP SO MUCH...
YOU WANTED TO PROVE THAT YOU COULD DO WHAT I DID?
THUP


YOU LIE...

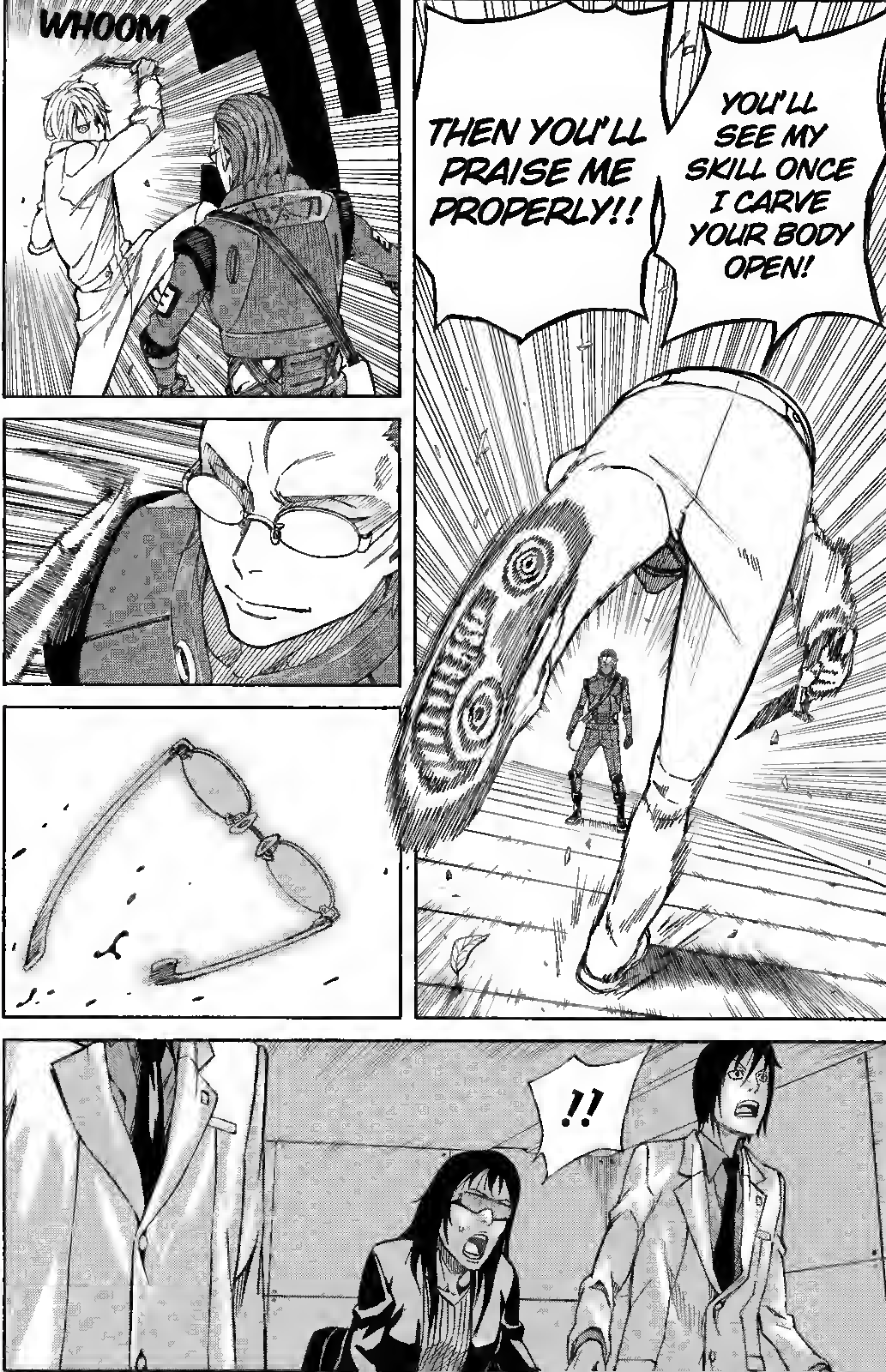

GIVE ME A KNIFE, AND I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU!!
YOU KNOW I MADE NOTHING BUT CLEAN CUTS!
YOU LIE !!

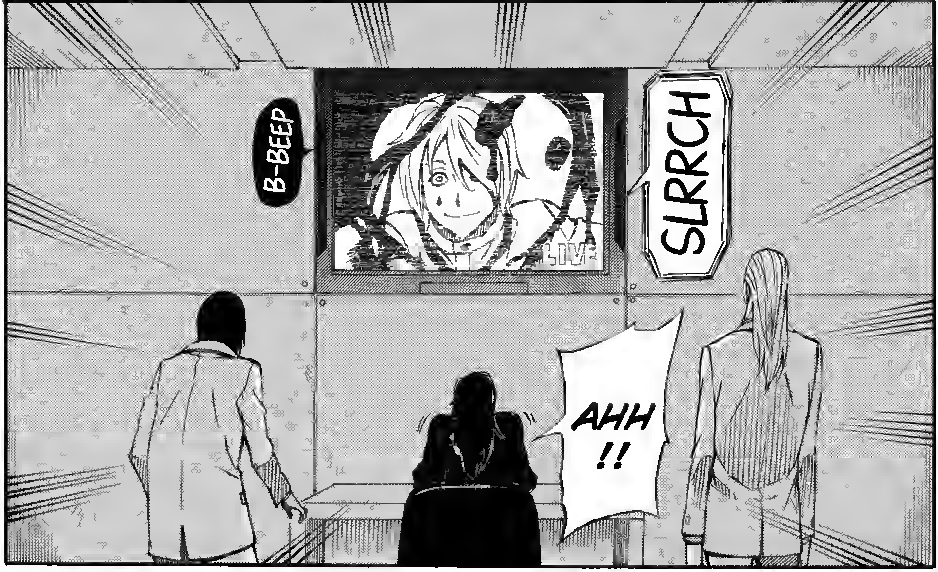

THERE YOU GO.

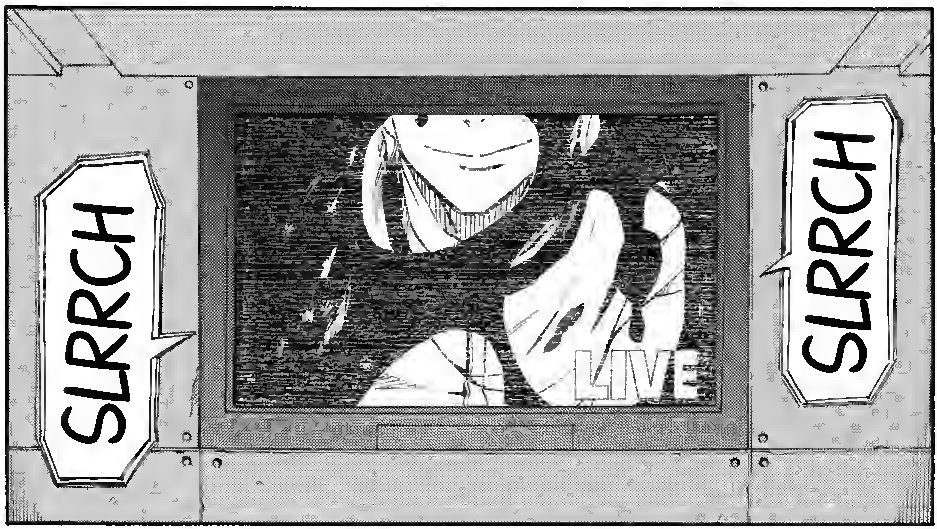

!
THOKK

!?
!
HAGI-WARA-SAN!

THE DESIRE TO CUT AND SLICE.
SLPP
THE ELATION THAT FOLLOWS.
THE OBSESSION TOWARDS IT ALL...
YOU AND I ARE SO SIMILAR.
GRIP!
HOW CLEANLY CAN I MAKE MY CUTS...
...MY STANDARDS ARE PRETTY HIGH...
BUT...
SCHLIP


WHOOM
YOU'LL SEE MY SKILL ONCE I CARVE YOUR BODY OPEN!
THEN YOU'LL PRAISE ME PROPERLY!!
!!


B-BEEP
SLRRCH
AHH !!


SLRRCH
SLRRCH
LIVE

DRIP
ポタタ
DRIP
DRIP

MY ARM... BURNS ...?
EH?!
...I'M... HOLDING THE KNIFE... WHY DID I STAB MY OWN ARM...?
YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING UNTIL YOUR BRAIN RECOGNIZES THOSE PAIN SIGNALS.
SHOVE
THOKK
GRAB
SPAK
TWIST
WAUGH ?!
SLURCH

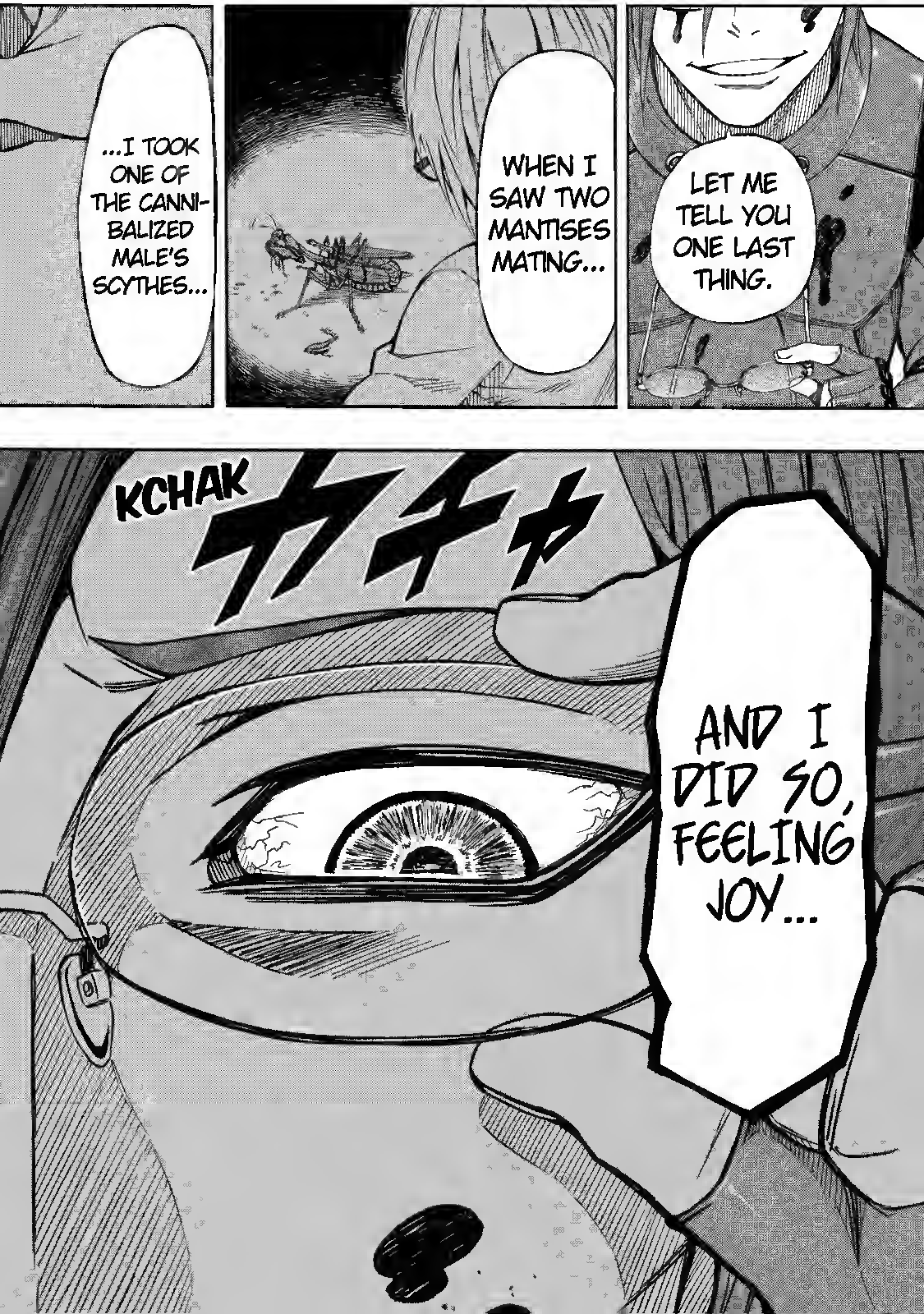
AND NOW...
SPLORCH
GAA-AAH !!
THAKK
HHH-HGH-HG!
THAT'S BOTH ARMS AND RIGHT LEG...
GLENCH
SLICE
THE LEFT LEG !!
SPIN

HIT
THUDD
AAUGH!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE IMMOBILIZED LIKE YOUR VICTIMS?
THAT'S... SPECIAL TASK FORCES ANTI-KNIFE CQC...
HAH... HA HA... HE DID IT!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
BLEED...
TWITCH
YOU AND I ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAME BREED OF HUMAN...!
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
WHY...
.....

SO WHY THE HELL AM I...
...ON THE OPERATING TABLE?!
!
...WHILE THEY MATED...
THE FEMALE ATE THE MALE...
...I SAW MANTISES MATING FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...WHEN I WAS IN KINDERGARTEN... ON A FIELD TRIP...

KCHAK
ガチャ
...TOO... WHEN I SAW...
I... CRIED...
SO MANY KIDS BROKE DOWN IN TEARS AFTER THEY SAW THAT...
THEY CRIED BECAUSE THEY FELT SORRY FOR THE MALE.
BUT AFTERWARDS, I FOUND OUT WHY THEY ALL CRIED.
...AS THE FEMALE MANTIS !!
I CRIED BECAUSE I WAS ANGRY! THAT I WASN'T BORN IN THIS WORLD...
BUT I WAS DIFFERENT...!

KCHAK
IF WE'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT OUR OBSESSION WITH CUTTING AND SLICING...
SHUFF
...MIGHT HAVE OUR CURRENT POSITIONS REVERSED...
...THEN YOU AND I, RIGHT NOW...


...I TOOK ONE OF THE CANNI-BALIZED MALE'S SCYTHES...
WHEN I SAW TWO MANTISES MATING...
LET ME TELL YOU ONE LAST THING.
KCHAK
カチャ
AND I DID SO, FEELING JOY...

...I SLICED THE FEMALE'S HEAD OFF!
...AND THEN...
...FOR BEING BORN HUMAN...

SHOCK
BUT I... I SOUGHT HIGHER.
FLUTTER
YOU'RE THE FEMALE MANTIS RIGHT NOW.
AND I WILL CONTINUE TO SLICE AND CUT, FOR DAYS ON END, SANCTIONED BY THE GOVERN-MENT...
...AS AN ASSISTOR.

... DAMMIT...
GOD...
...WITH YOUR TRANSPLANT OPERATION.
...WE WILL NOW PROCEED...
STAB
IT'S NOT FAAA-AAIR !!

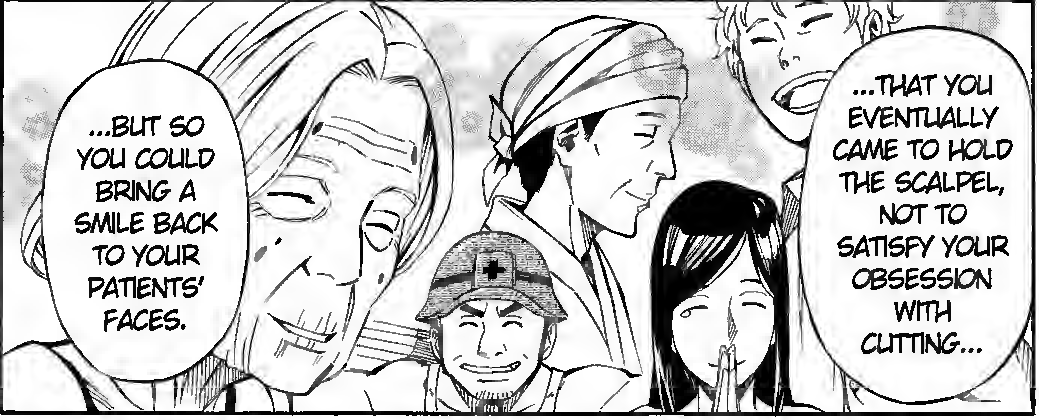
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
SLRRLLIP
IT'S NOT FAA-AAA-AAA-AIR!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!

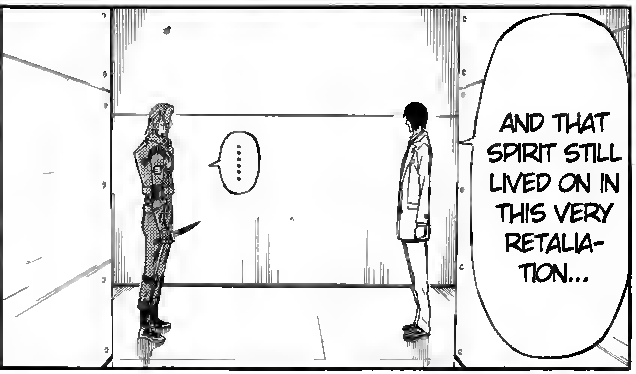
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
LIVE
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
THAT SCREAM IS DESPAIR ITSELF...
...I KNOW THAT SCREAM... BECAUSE I'VE EXPERIENCED THE PIT OF DESPAIR
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
THIS IS TRULY IT...
THIS IS TRUE RETRIBUTION...
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
URGH...
HURT
STOP STOP...
NGH
I-IT HURRRTS...
IT'S NOT FAIR!....

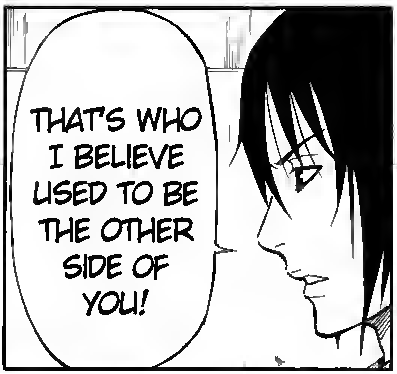
...
STOP...
STOP
--
IT--
STOP...
DON'T
--
STO--
--OP--
...SO--
--
BEAU--
...
IT'S...
--TI--
--
FUL--

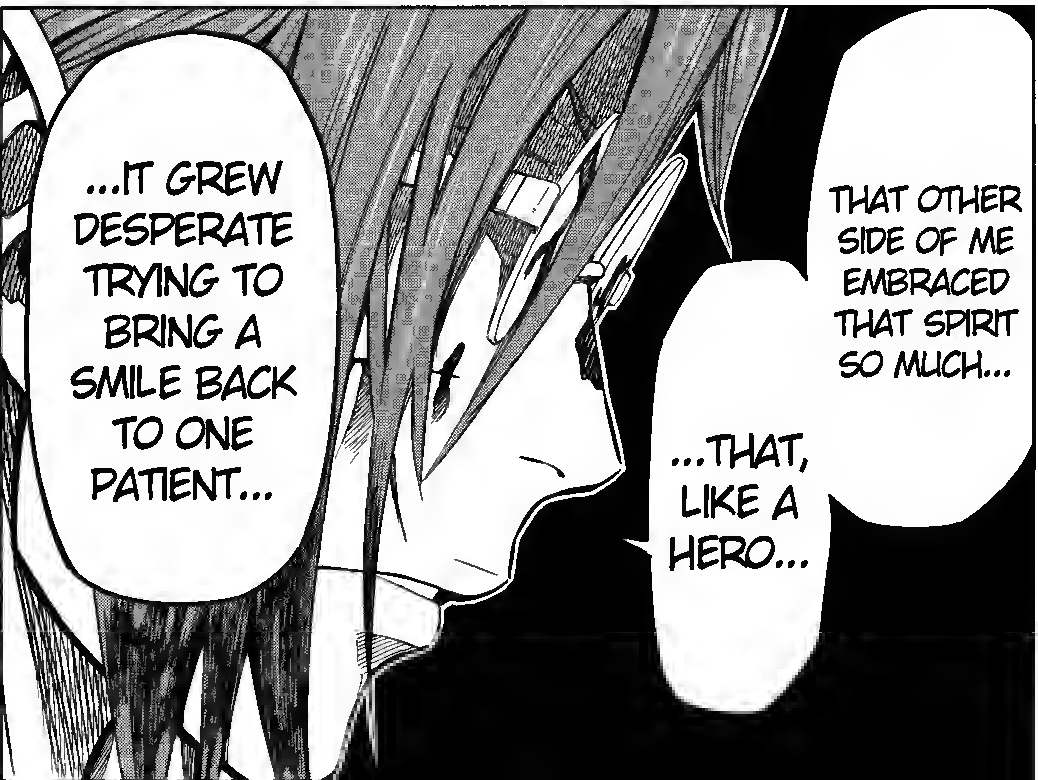
I COMMEND YOU FOR NOT AVERTING YOUR GAZE TO THE VERY END.
SCREE
THIS OBSER-VANCE...
...WAS BRILLIANT.

!
YOU VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS RETALIATION FOR THOSE TWO VICTIMS.
YUUJI...
...BECAUSE I HAVE NO PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH THOSE MURDERS.
IT'S TRUE THAT I COULD NOT SAVE EVERYONE'S HEARTS...
ALTHOUGH IT'S ALSO UNFORGIVEABLE THAT MY SURGICAL HANDIWORK WAS DEFILED BY A POSER.
I ONLY ASSIST SO I CAN KEEP CUTTING.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
WHEN I WITNESSED THIS RETALIATION, I KNEW FOR SURE...
I INTERVIEWED YOUR FORMER PATIENTS.
...
IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?

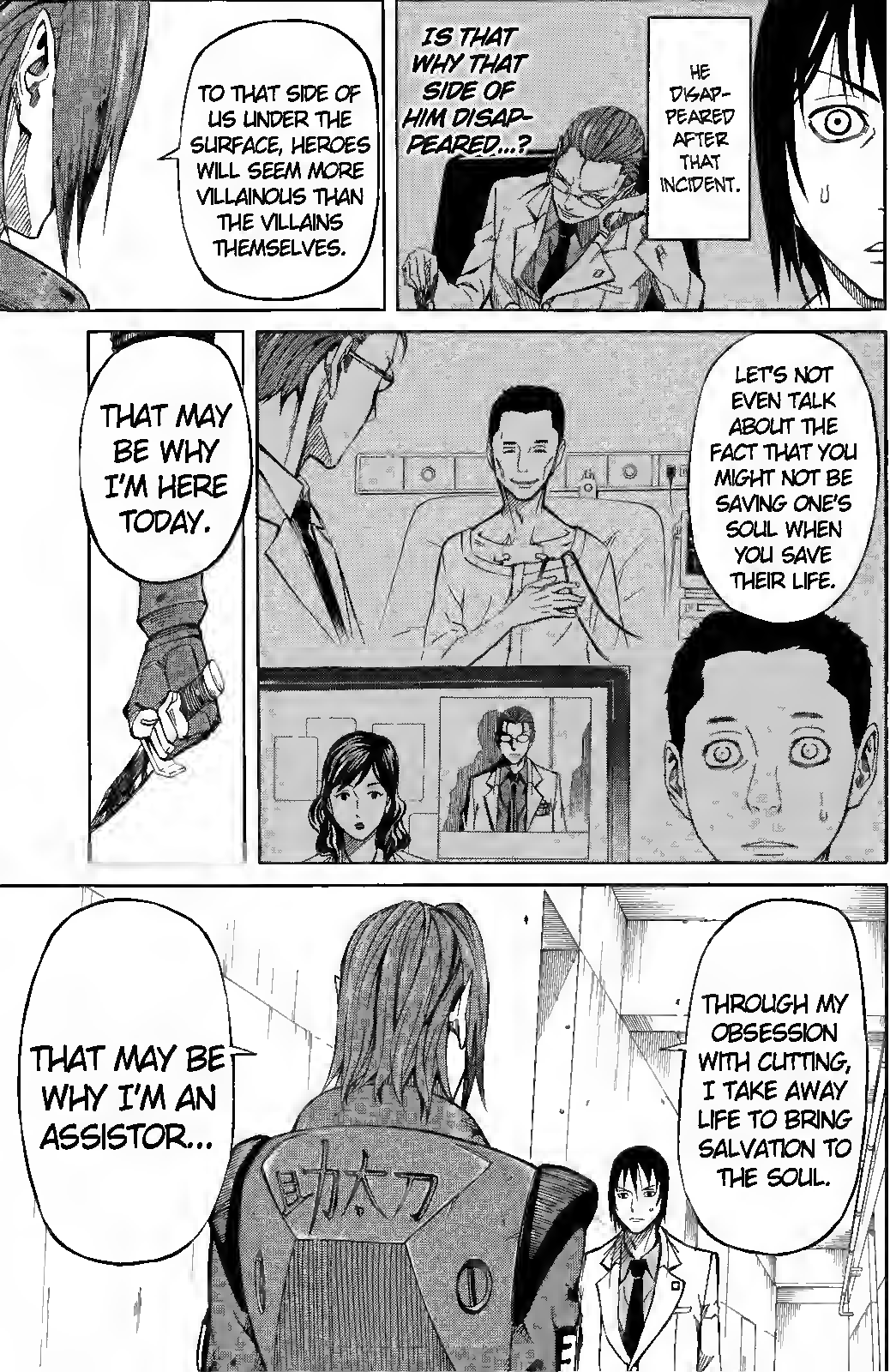

...BUT SO YOU COULD BRING A SMILE BACK TO YOUR PATIENTS' FACES.
...THAT YOU EVENTUALLY CAME TO HOLD THE SCALPEL, NOT TO SATISFY YOUR OBSESSION WITH CUTTING...


.....
AND THAT SPIRIT STILL LIVED ON IN THIS VERY RETALIA-TION...


THAT'S WHO I BELIEVE LISED TO BE THE OTHER SIDE OF YOU!


...IT GREW DESPERATE TRYING TO BRING A SMILE BACK TO ONE PATIENT...
...THAT, LIKE A HERO...
THAT OTHER SIDE OF ME EMBRACED THAT SPIRIT SO MUCH...

...AND CONSIDERED SACRIFICING HIM SO THAT HE COULD BE A DONOR FOR MY PATIENT.
...ANOTHER SIDE OF ME SAW THAT COLLEGE STUDENT FROM AN AUTO ACCIDENT...
救急入口
EMERGENCY ENTRANCE
...I WOULD ALWAYS BRING THE OPERATION BEFORE ME TO AS PERFECT A CONCLUSION AS I COULD.
SO WHETHER THAT STUDENT WOULD LIVE OR NOT...
COMPASSION OR NOT, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN POSSESSED BY THE ACT OF CUTTING.
...WHICH DECISION WOULD YOU HAVE MADE IN MY SHOES?
YUUJI, AS A COMPASSIONATE MAN WHO ALWAYS HAS AN EYE FOR COMPARISON...
...OR SAVED THAT HEART TRANSPLANT PATIENT...?
WOULD YOU HAVE SAVED THE STUDENT...


TO THAT SIDE OF US UNDER THE SURFACE, HEROES WILL SEEM MORE VILLAINOUS THAN THE VILLAINS THEMSELVES.
IS THAT WHY THAT SIDE OF HIM DISAP-PEARED...?
HE DISAP-PEARED AFTER THAT INCIDENT.
THAT MAY BE WHY I'M HERE TODAY.
LET'S NOT EVEN TALK ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE SAVING ONE'S SOUL WHEN YOU SAVE THEIR LIFE.
THAT MAY BE WHY I'M AN ASSISTOR...
THROUGH MY OBSESSION WITH CUTTING, I TAKE AWAY LIFE TO BRING SALVATION TO THE SOUL.

BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU DEAL WITH THAT OTHER SIDE OF YOURSELF, OKAY?
...I'LL LET YOU HAVE THIS VICTORY.
SO WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING OTHERS' SOULS...

...IF THAT'S THE CASE...
WHICH CHOICE DID YOU MAKE THAT DAY?!
...THEN ANSWER ME, HAGIWARA-SAN!
ALL I KNOW ABOUT IT IS WHAT'S IN THE NEWS...
THAT FAKE SURGERY INCIDENT...
MURDER UNDER PRETENSE OF SURGERY?
PLACED UNDER SUSPICION

TAK
TAK
SKUFF
HAGIWARA-SAN..

I look like Noboru-kun
I FEEL LIKE A WRECK..
COULDN'T EVEN GET A WINK OF SLEEP BECAUSE OF WHAT HAGIWARA-SAN SAID--
HGH!
BLEHHH
MY HAND... HURTS?!
EH?!
THROB
PUP
PUP
CLATTER

SUKEDACHI NINE

助太刀。9

English Digital Edition
Chapter 015

Sukedachi 09
助太刀09
Seishi Kishimoto

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